

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.71

c123720

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
JAN 11 1938 ★  
U. S. Department of Agriculture



*Catalog*  
*No. 16*

*Choice*  
**RHODODENDRONS**  
*and*  
**AZALEAS**

●  
**VAN VEEN NURSERY**

Telephone: TAbor 7093

3127 S. E. 43rd Avenue, **PORTLAND, OREGON**

# RHODODENDRONS – AZALEAS

## SOIL AND LOCATION

The first question that anyone who wants to start the cultivation of Rhododendrons or Azaleas should ask himself, is whether the soil of his garden is suitable to those plants.

There is only one substance whose presence in any quantity in the soil can be said to render their cultivation impossible, and that is lime, which is alkaline. Practically every other soil, by means of labor and the addition of fertilizing material, can be made to suit them. In a state of nature these shrubs appear most frequently to inhabit regions possessing a peaty soil, but there is no doubt that a light, sandy, well-drained loam meets their needs as well, if not better.

In trying to follow nature as a guide it is well to remember that plants cannot always secure the soil or situations best suited to them. In the struggle for existence they most often adapt themselves to what they get. We may see some very fine Rhododendrons growing in other than peaty soil. I only mention this to support my belief that it is not necessary to imitate nature too closely.

The most difficult soil to adopt to growing Rhododendrons is one of a heavy clayey nature; one that gets cold and wet in winter and hard and subject to cracking in summer. Such a soil must be trenched to a depth of two feet and thoroughly broken up, adding well decayed leaves, peat, sandy soil or any other material available which may help to lighten it.

Stagnant water is fatal to Rhododendrons and must be drained if the surplus water does not readily get away.

A dry hot soil—one of a light sandy nature lying on a gravelly sub-soil—is also in need of improvement before it is fit for many of the better Rhododendrons.

On such a spot the aim should be to provide a soil, to a depth of about 2 feet, of a nature which will not lose its moisture too quickly, for there is nothing (with the exception of a limey or alkaline soil) which Rhododendrons detest more than dryness at the roots. To improve such a soil will depend much on circumstances. It should be turned over to the required depth, and anything in the nature of a hard pan beneath thoroughly broken up. Even if nothing can be added to improve its quality, the mere stirring up of the soil will quickly increase its capacity to retain moisture.

Soil of a sounder, somewhat heavier nature may be obtained and mixed with the lighter one. The addition of well-decayed leaves is always an advantage. There is nothing a Rhododendron likes better.

It may here be mentioned that when planting Rhododendrons a very important point is to make the soil absolutely firm about the roots. The lighter the soil, the firmer it should be made.

As to soil conditions, I hope I have made it clear that—providing lime is absent—there are few soils that cannot be made to suit at least the more vigorous kinds of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. A few species of Rhododendrons will succeed on limey soil, but these are very rare.

After the question of soil, the position in the garden best fitted for Rhododendrons is the matter to be considered.

The Rhododendrons of the hybrid type are very hardy and accommodating, and one need not be very particular in finding a place for them. If no other spot can be found for them, they succeed well enough fully exposed to the sun, although if the weather should be bright and hot during the flowering season, there is no doubt that in such a place the blossoms do not last long, and neither will the growth be so vigorous.

The ideal place for Rhododendrons of the evergreen type, especially the large-leaved species, is undoubtedly one where trees provide a certain amount of shade, which is especially beneficial if it is cast over the plants in the hot middle hours of the day. For those that grow and flower early in the season, protection from the early morning sun is also desirable. Bright mornings frequently follow cold frosty nights in the spring, and a screen from the early rays of the sun will sometimes prevent the rapid thawing of flower-buds and young growths.

Besides the protection which trees give to Rhododendrons, from a cultural point of view, they have the additional value of greatly enhancing the beauty and scenic effects of the plants when in bloom. Fortunate is the gardener, therefore, who, in addition to the right kind of soil, has on his Rhododendron plot some suitable trees distributed to give shelter and shade.

Small-leaved evergreen species bear sunshine better than the large-leaved ones, which is to be expected; since they often occur in nature, covering stretches of treeless mountain country where the only protection they get from the sun is given by cloud and mist.

Many species of Rhododendrons and Azaleas are well adapted for the rock garden. Positions may undoubtedly be found in the average rock garden where a certain limited selection of dwarf Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be suitably placed.

The usual recommendation of shade for Rhododendrons may generally be disregarded where typical alpine species are concerned, and if sufficient surface mulching is provided, full exposure to sun will be found beneficial in producing compactness of growth and freedom of flower. Advantage being merely taken of such comparative shade as will be available on slopes facing to the North, and providing for certain well-defined species such shelter from mid-day sun as may be found desirable. Protection from cutting winds is naturally necessary, and this may be overcome by a few well-placed wind-resisting conifers or trees.

Where the general use of alpine Rhododendrons is concerned, no serious cultural problem presents itself. Given a reasonable depth of good loam with a generous mixture of leaf-mould, success is practically assured. Periodic top dressing with similar material will prove an important factor in maintaining healthy growth and act as a mulch to conserve moisture and provide the cool root-run so essential to the development of surface feeding fibres. Little or no regular pruning is necessary, but an occasional shortening of irregular shoots will tend towards shapeliness of the plants. After flowering, it is important to pick off the seed pods to enable the plants to form flower buds for next season.

No finer show is made by any plants than Azaleas. I have in mind here the deciduous Azaleas. With the exception of a few species

they may be planted in full exposure, and never lose their brilliancy of color, though the flowers will not last as long as when planted in partly shaded positions.

There are quite a number of species and varieties of Azaleas. Many of them are quite distinct and attractive plants, each having a delicate grace and quality of flowers and color, filling the air with fragrance.

The autumn foliage of many of the deciduous kinds is beautiful beyond words. All of these plants are of great value, either for open gardens or for woodland planting.

An Azalea garden on a liberal scale, with the addition of flowering trees, such as Magnolias, Cherries, Flowering Crab, etc., can be made to give a most beautiful spring effect.

Azaleas can be used to great advantage to give color in long vistas which are framed with shrubs; the Azaleas in this type of planting being in bold groups of one color leading to another, with pale shades of yellow and pink in the foreground and the more vivid colors in the distance. The autumn tint of their foliage is especially useful and a great feature.

I have already stated that in general Rhododendrons and Azaleas dislike dryness at the roots. If the drainage is satisfactory, and no lime present, a soil and position that provides a continuous and adequate supply of moisture is the most essential need in their successful cultivation.

---

## RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS

Our hybrid Rhododendrons are grown from cuttings exclusively, which makes a nice compact plant, and without danger of wild shoots coming up from the roots.

---

**ALBION**—Red, 15-18 inch. \$3.00 each.

**ALICE**—Deep pink fading to pale rose. 8-10 inch \$1.25, 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.

**ALBUM ELEGANS**—Very pale mauve, fading white. 24-30 inch \$5.00 each.

**AMAZONE**—Bright pink; 9-12 inch \$1.25, 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.

**ANTONIA**—Pale pink, heavy dark blotch; 10-12 inch \$2.50 each.

**CAPRICE**—Orchid pink, yellowish eye, frilled edge; 8-10 inch \$1.00, 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.

**COUNTESS CLANCARTY**—Bright pink frilled; 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.

**EMPEREUR DU MAROE**—Brilliant purple; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.

**EVERASTIANUM**—Rosy lilac, frilled edge; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.

**FASTUOSUM FLORO PLENO**—Double mauve; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.

**ISABELLA**—Clear Pink; 9-12 inch \$1.20, 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50, 18-24 inch \$5.00 each.

**KISSINA**—Soft blue lavender; 8-10 inch \$1.00, 10-12 inch \$2.00, 12-15 inch \$3.00, 15-18 inch \$4.00 each.

**MADAME CHAROZE**—Large pink clusters, early; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.

**MADAME MASON**—White with yellow blotch; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.

---

Special prices on large quantities.

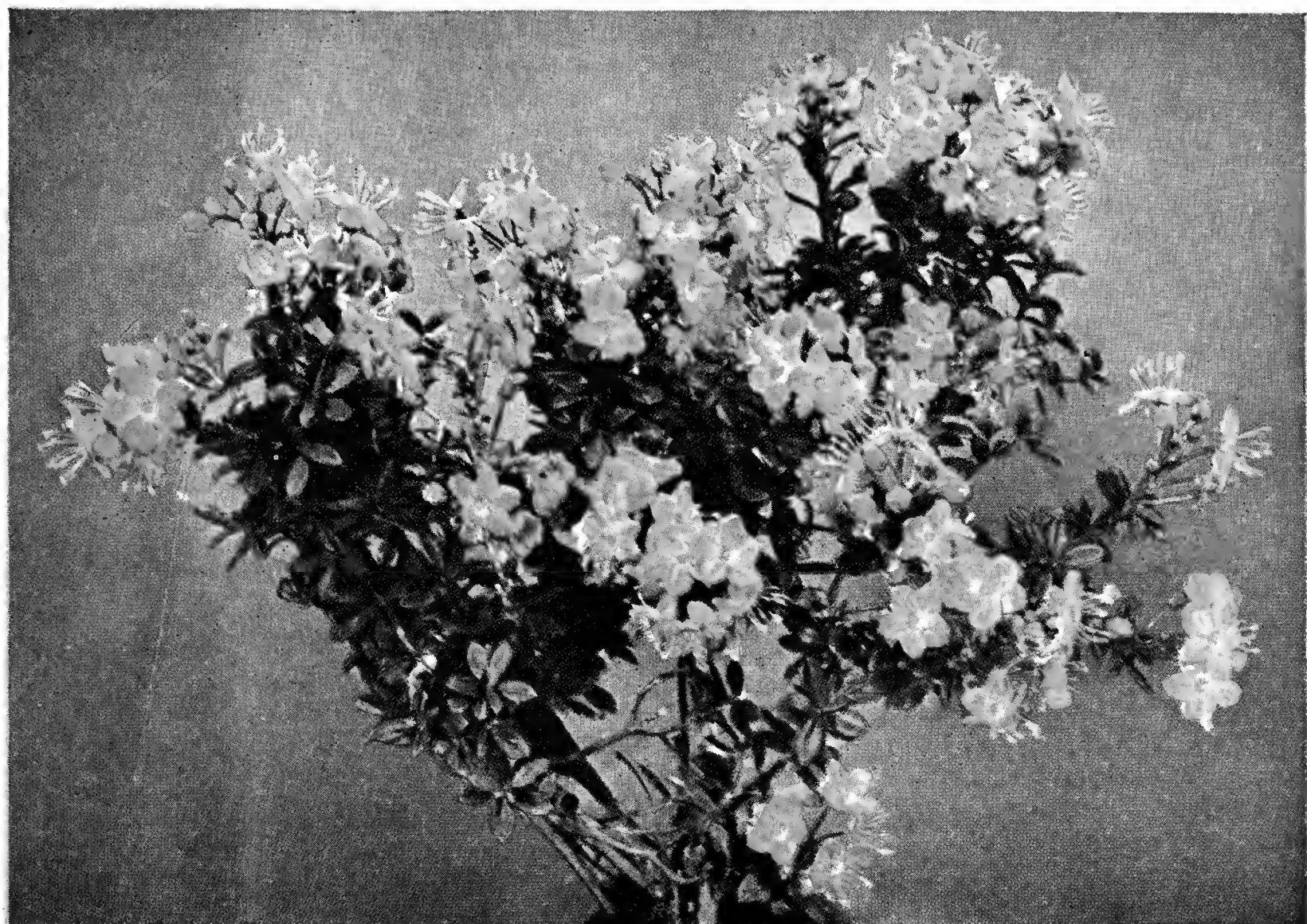


AZALEA MOLLIS

- MICHAEL WATERER** — Bright crimson; 10-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.
- MOUNT EVEREST**—White with red spots; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- \***MYRTIFOLIA**—Pink; 8-10 inch \$1.00 and \$1.50 each.
- NAPOLEON BAMNAUN** — Red, yellowish eye; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- OLD PORT**—Plum Color; 10-12 inch \$1.50 each.
- ORCHID GEM**—Orchid; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- \***OVATUM**—Pink, very compact grower; 6-8 inch \$1.00 and \$1.50 each.
- PELOPEDAS** — Rosy crimson; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.
- PINK PEARL**—Rosy pink, fading to flushed; 12-15 inch \$3.00 each.
- \***PRECOX**—Rosy lilac; 8-10 inch \$1.00 and \$1.50 each.
- PRINCE ARTHUR**—Pink, brown eye, early; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- PULCHELLUM**—Pink, late; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- RAVIGO**—Orchid pink, yellowish eye; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- ROSA MUNDI**—Pale pink, very early; a slow and compact grower; 15 inch \$3.00 each.
- RACHAEL**—White-tinged violet; 15-18 inch \$3.50 each.
- \***RACEMOSUM X MUCRONULATUM** — Deep rose pink, early; a new hybrid; 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.
- ROSEUM ELEGANS** — Rose; 12-15 inch \$2.50 each.
- ROSEUM MAGNIFICUM** — Rosy pink, brownish eye; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 24-30 inch \$5.00 each.
- ROSEUM SUPERBUM** — Soft rose; 18-24 inch \$4.00, 24-30 inch \$5.00 each.
- SOCRATE**—Rose pink, orange blotch; 9-12 inch \$1.50, 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-18 inch \$3.50, 18-24 inch \$5.00 each.
- SYLPH**—Pink; 12-15 inch \$2.50, 15-28 inch \$3.50 each.
- WHITE PEARL**—Slightly blush changing to pure white; 8-10 inch \$1.50, 18-21 inch \$5.00 each.
- \***WILSONII**—Pink; 10-12 inch \$1.00 and \$1.50 each.
- ZEPHYR**—Bright-rosy red; 10-12 inch \$2.00, 12-15 inch \$3.00 each.

\*Suitable for rockery.





KALMIOPSIS LEACHIANA

## RHODODENDRON SPECIES

**AMBIGIUM** (Triflorum Series)—(A) Yellow flowers spotted with green. 5-year-old plants \$3.00 each.

**BREVISTYLUM** (Heliolipis Series)—(B) A shrub up to 10 feet with pale to deep rose flowers with crimson markings. 5-year-old plants \$1.50 and \$2.00 each.

\***CILIATUM** (Maddenii Series)—(C) A small spreading shrub with flowers white to tinged with rose in April. 5-year-old plants \$2.00 each.

**CONCINNUM** (Triflorum Series)—(B) A small shrub with spotted purplish flowers. 5-year-old plants \$1.50 and \$2.00 each.

**DAURICUM** (Dauricum Series)—(B) A semi-deciduous species, eventually 10 feet in height with bright rose-purple flowers in February. 5-year-old plants \$2.00 each. Larger plants 3-4 feet \$5.00 each.

**DECORUM** (Fortunei Series)—(C) A shrub 12-20 feet with white slightly sweet scented, sometimes shell-pink flowers. 5-year-old plants \$2.00 and \$3.00 each.

\***DEGRONIANUM** (Ponticum Series)—(B) A compact grower with clear soft pink flowers. 4-year-old plants, \$1.50 each.

**FORTUNEI** (Fortunei Series)—(B) One of the hardiest of the Chinese rhododendrons. Its fragrant pale pinky-lilac flowers are quite attractive. A plant well worth growing. 6-year-old bushes \$3.00 and \$4.00 each.

\***IMPEDITUM** (Laponicum Series)—(A) A low shrublet with mauve or light purplish-blue flowers. An attractive plant for the rock garden. 2-year-old plants \$1.00; 3-year-old plants at \$1.50 each.

\***OLEIFOLIA** (Virgatum Series)—(E) An erect shrub with pink flowers. Small plants 75c each.

**OREODOXA** (Fortunei Series)—(B) A shrub or small tree with pinky flowers. 5-year-old plants \$1.50 and \$2.00 each.

**OREOTREPES** (Triflorum Series)—(C) A shrub up to seven feet in height with mauve or mauve-pink flowers often with darker spots. With its small glaucous leaves this plant is very attractive in flower at the end of April or early May. 5-year-old plants \$1.00 and \$1.50 each.

—  
\*Suitable for rockery.

\***RACEMOSUM** (Virgatum Series)—(A) A beautiful dwarf species with small pink flowers in profusion. Small plants \$1.00 each. 4-year-old plants \$2.00 each.

**VILLOSUM** (Triflorum Series) — (B) A shrub 10-20 feet in height with flowers of a bright magenta purple. 3-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**YUNANENSE** (Triflorum Series)—A very free flowering shrub with pinkish or nearly white flowers spotted with red. Is worth a place in every garden. 12-15 inch plants at \$2.00 each. 18-24 inch plants at \$4.00 and \$5.00 each.

——  
\*Suitable for rockery.

Letters of the alphabet indicate the degree of hardiness of the plant.

---

## AZALEAS

### HARDY AND SEMI-HARDY

**ALTA CLARENSIS**—5-6 ft. This is one of the finest of the Hardy Azaleas. The flower trusses, which are large and beautifully built (often measuring six inches in diameter), come in the most beautiful shades of orange, and are delightfully fragrant. This variety is unsurpassed in landscaping for its masses of gorgeous orange colors in the Spring, and its luxurious foliage, turning almost to a bright red in the Fall. 12-15 inch \$1.25, 15-18 inch \$2.00, 18-24 inch \$3.00, 24-30 inch \$4.00 and \$5.00.

**ARBORESCENS**—5-15 ft. A fine plant, belonging to the Appalachian Mountains, has sweetly scented white to pink flowers in June. 12-15 inch \$1.00, 15-18 inch \$1.50.

**CALENDULACEA** (Flame Azalea)—6 ft. and over. One of our finest native Azaleas in colors ranging from pale yellow to a deep orange red. 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00.

\***FLAME CREEPER**—Very dwarf evergreen with flame red flowers; extra choice; 4-5 inch \$1.00.

\***HINODEGIRI**—A dwarf evergreen Japanese Azalea blooming in early Spring with beautiful bright red flowers. This plant thrives best in a mild climate. 4-6 inch 50c, 6-8 inch 75c.

**J. C. VAN TOL**—5 ft. A newly introduced variety of Azalea since the federal embargo stopped importation of nursery stock. This variety is an improvement made on Azalea Mollis by Mr. J. C. van Tol, of Boskoop, Holland, and has proven of great merit to the flower garden. 12-15 inch \$1.25, 15-18 inch \$2.00.

**LOUISE HUNNEWELL**—A very fine deciduous Azalea, much like A. Mollis, with flowers in shades of yellow to orange. 18-24 inch \$3.00.

\***MACRANTHA**—A medium-growing evergreen type with wonderful deep salmon blossoms of great size. Single bloom. Will do well in a mild climate. 4-6 inch 75c, 6-8 inch \$1.00.

\***MACRANTHA FLORO-PLENO**—Like above but with semi-double blossoms. 4-6 inch 75c, 6-8 inch \$1.00.

**MAXWELLII**—An evergreen with large carmine flowers, slightly fragrant. Very choice; small plants 50c.

**MOLLIS**—5 ft. A rather slow-growing free-flowering shrub from Japan and China, with a variety of beautiful colors—yellow, orange and salmon-pink being the prevailing colors. It is very hardy and, being of slow growth, may be grouped in the foreground of a mass of the taller kinds of Azaleas, Rhododendrons or other tall-growing shrubs. It is also very effective in mass planting, and highly useful for the rockery. 6-9 inch 50c, 9-12 inch \$1.00, 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00.

**NUDIFLORA** (Pinxterbloom) — 10 ft. or more. Flowers from white to clear pink. Very fragrant. 6-9 inch 75c, 18-24 inch \$4.00 and \$5.00.

\***OBTUSUM**—An evergreen Japanese Azalea in colors of light-pink, rose-pink, bright red, and lavender; 6-8 inch 75c.

**OCCIDENTALIS** (Southern Oregon Azalea) —10-15 ft. A very valuable tall shrub, with masses of white or blush-white flowers in late May. Very fragrant. Will do best in partial shade. 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00, 18-24 inch \$2.50.

**PONTICA**—6-7 ft. (Often called Yellow Honeysuckle.) A very sturdy grower with sweet scented flowers. Extra broad specimen plants, 18-24 inch \$4.00.

——  
\*Suitable for rockery.



**PONTICA HYBRID (Ghent Hybrids) —**

Words cannot describe the beauty of this hardy Azalea. Its colors are very similar to that of A. Mollis, but more fragrant. It comes in bloom when most other deciduous Azaleas are through blooming. 9-12 inch \$1.00, 12-15 inch \$1.50, 18-24 inch \$3.00.

**POUKHANENSIS (Korean Azalea) —** A beautiful variety. The purple-lilac color of the flowers is unique among the Azaleas. Perfectly hardy. 15-18 inch \$2.00.

**SCHLIPPENBACHI (Royal Azalea) —** A deciduous densely branched shrub, about 6 ft. high. The flowers are pale rose spotted with red-brown. A very fine shrub. Mr. Wilson, in speaking of the Diamond Mountains in Korea, says: "In June, these

regions are a wonderful sight, with literally miles and miles of the purest pink from the millions of flowers of this Azalea." 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.50, 18-24 inch \$4.00.

**VASEYI (Pinkshell Azalea) —** 6-15 ft. This Azalea is perhaps the most profuse bloomer of all the native species, and is the more conspicuous as its white, pink or rose-colored flowers appear in early May before the foliage. Autumn usually turns the leaves a deep, dark crimson, greatly enhancing its beauty and value. Best at home in a moist and shady situation. 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00.

**\*XMAS CHEER —** A dwarf evergreen shrub with glossy leaves and brilliant red flowers. 4-6 inch \$1.00.

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

**ANDROMEDA JAPONICA —** A charming evergreen shrub from Japan, with large clusters of creamy-white flowers in early spring. 15-18 inch \$1.50, 18-24 inch \$2.50 each.

**\*DAPHNE CNEORUM (Rock Daphne) —** A most beautiful low hardy shrub with fragrant pink blossoms. Fine for the rock garden. 4-6 inch 50c, 6-8 inch 75c, 8-10 inch \$1.00 each.

**DAPHNE ODORA (Winter Daphne) —** Grows about three feet tall, broad glossy foliage. Flowers are pearly pink, appear in clusters and are of intense fragrance. 9-12 inch \$1.00, 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00.

**KALMIA LATIFOLIA (Calico Bush) (Mountain Laurel) —** A beautiful hardy broad-leaved evergreen with large trusses of pink flowers in May. Prefers an acid soil. 12-15 inch \$1.50, 15-18 inch \$2.00 each.

\*Suitable for rock garden.

**\*KALMIA POLIFOLIA MICROPHYLLA —** A very dwarf evergreen shrub with pretty pink flowers. Ideal for the rock garden. 3-4 inch \$1.00 each.

**LEUCOTHAË CATESBAEI —** Large glossy foliage turning to gorgeous shades of red and bronze in the fall and winter. Semi-dwarf and hardy. White flowers produced in clusters in the early spring. 12-15 inch 75c each.

**\*KALMIOPSIS LEACHIANA —** A very rare and local evergreen shrub, said by botanists to be a cross between Kalmia and Rhododendron. Found in only two or three very small patches in Southern Oregon. From 8 to 12 inches high, it spreads slowly by underground runners and layered branches. The foliage is small and dark green. The flowers of medium size, pinkish, sometimes white, with red calyx, in umbels of from 5 to 9. Will do well in light, leafmold soil, with root moisture and a little shade. 1 to 2-year old, nursery-grown plants \$1.00 each.

---

## INFORMATION

All nursery stock offered in this catalog is of high-grade quality and grown on our grounds, which is of a slightly clayey nature. Practically all plants are exposed to the hot summer sun as well as the biting cold east wind during the winter.

Prices are made to fit the quality of the stock sent out. Discriminating buyers now realize that the greatest value of nursery

stock is underground. Frequent transplanting and handling specimens with adequate burlapped balls means success and quick results. The best is always the cheapest.

All shipments will be sent by Express unless required postage is included with remittance for orders.

Customary clause of non-warranty applies to all stock listed in this folder.



# **VAN VEEN NURSERY**

3127 S. E. 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon

*(Two Blocks North of Powell Boulevard)*